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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Cyberport and Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund join forces with Young Makers & ChangeMakers to nurture Hong Kong's future female tech talent to compete with world's best in Silicon Valley

Hong Kong – 3 July 2017

TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech is proud to announce that Hong Kong's top Junior Division team from Diocesan Girls School (DGS) was selected as a finalist out of 1,100 teams worldwide to compete at the Technovation Challenge World Pitch Summit in San Francisco this August. Hong Kong's top Senior Division team from St Paul's Convent School was a semi-finalist and was also selected to participate as a Visiting Team, ensuring that Hong Kong will be well represented with two teams in Silicon Valley this summer. TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech is a pilot tech entrepreneurial education programme launched by Young Makers & ChangeMakers (YMCM) in conjunction with co-organiser Cyberport and main prize sponsor Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund.



Created by California-based charity Iridescent, Technovation Challenge aims to address the gender talent gap experienced in the technology industry and encourages girls aged 10-18 to create mobile app solutions in support of the United Nation's global sustainable development goals. YMCM collaborated with the HKSAR Government, private industry, and the education sector to introduce and support this unique competition in Hong Kong for the first time.

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(Photo credit: Facebook page of Eddie Ng Hak-kim, former Education Secretary)

To provide the girls with connected learning to real-world talent and opportunities in Hong Kong, YMCM augmented Technovation's online curriculum with a series of training workshops and corporate visits to cutting-edge workplaces such as Google, Commonwealth Bank Innovation Lab, INFINITI Lab, and WeWork, as well as a bootcamp at The University of Hong Kong. In this way, the more than 290 girls from over 40 schools across Hong Kong benefitted from experienced practitioners as speakers, facilitators and mentors to learn to ideate, prototype, create an app solution (mainly using MIT's AppInventor visual programming language) and pitch it over a three-month period.

"Technovation HK: #GirlsMakeTech is a new model for stimulating talent in Hong Kong," said Dr David Chung Wai-keung, Under Secretary of the Innovation and Technology Bureau. "And we the government will continue to nurture more innovative projects to encourage Hong Kong's young people to pursue innovation and technology-based careers as an important part of building our ecosystem."

Altogether, Hong Kong girls created and submitted 22 app solutions and pitches online that address local issues in education, environment, equality, health, peace and poverty, which culminated in the Hong Kong Pitch Finals and Celebration at Cyberport on 7 May 2017.

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Maria Lam, Chief Corporate Development Officer of Cyberport said, "Cyberport is honored to co-organise and judge Hong Kong's first Technovation Challenge to nurture young talents and empower female entrepreneurs. We were in awe of the outstanding presentations by the students and applaud their creative ideas which are so well articulated through the apps. I very much look forward to welcoming them to our community of digital tech start-ups at Cyberport."



DGS's Dementia Care Companion team impressed judges in Hong Kong and worldwide with their mobile app that provides personalised training to dementia patients through interactive games, at the same time as allowing caregivers to monitor their progress and location. In addition, Team SPCS from St Paul's Convent School (SPCS) won the Hong Kong Senior Team Division with their ASAPHealth app that enables personalised and informed decisions during medical emergencies. Sponsored by Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund, the SPCS team will participate in the World Pitch Summit as a Visiting Team, and will have the opportunity to pitch at Hong Kong's RISE conference for tech startups in July.

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Cindy Chow, Executive Director of Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund observed, "It is our Fund's mission to inspire the younger generation to embrace technology and entrepreneurship for a good cause. We are therefore proud to provide them the opportunity to meet and learn from the world's best teams in Silicon Valley. We are confident that they set great examples for more girls in Hong Kong to follow their track."

Teams from across Hong Kong created many innovative technology solutions to address Hong Kong's social needs. The other Hong Kong Award winners include:

- Runner-up Best Hong Kong Senior Team: Be Bold;) – teleEDU (Belilios Public School)
- Best Social Innovation: HKIS Dragons – Blackbox (Hong Kong International School)
- Best Presentation: THS Breaking Waves – Meetup CleanUp (MUCU) (The Harbour School)
- Best Perseverance: JQuery – Food Collector (Diocesan Girls School)
- Best Teamwork: Dynamic – 5G Redeem (Lok Sin Tong Ku Chiu Man Secondary School)
- Honourable Mention (Senior Division): T-time – WALKER (Good Hope School)
- Most Popular Senior Team (by vote of audience): DGS AppInventors – All Access (Diocesan Girls School)
- Most Popular Junior Team (by vote of audience): Snowdingcon – Snowdingcon (West Island School, Nord Anglia, St Paul's Coeducation)

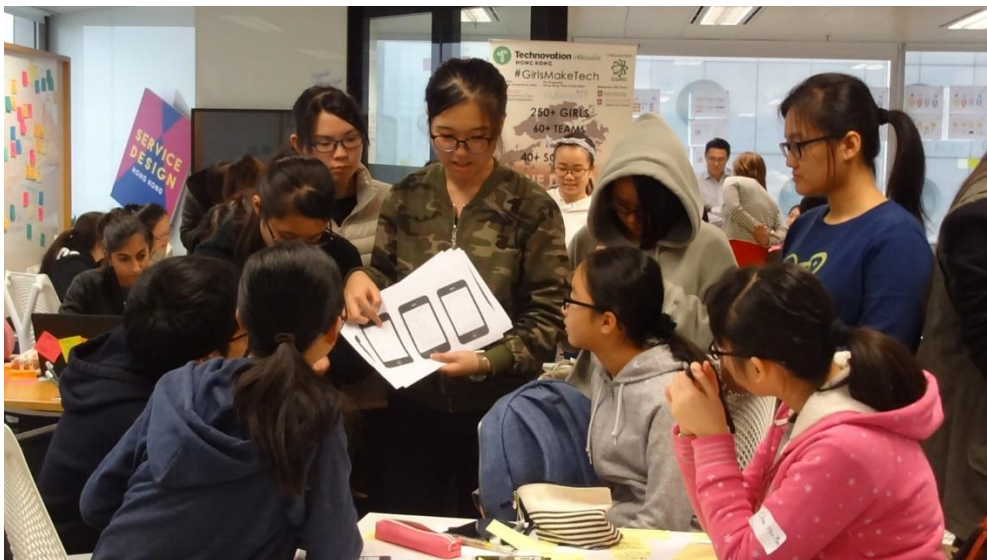
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Eddie Ng Hak-kim, former Education Secretary, noted in his opening remarks at the Hong Kong Pitch Finals: "I want to express my gratitude to the organiser Young Makers & Changemakers and its founder Brian Tang Wha-Li for giving our students this opportunity."



According to 14 year old Cindy Yeung Tsz Mei of top Senior Division Team SPCS: "Every part of TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech is exciting and inspiring. To me, the most interesting part is the journey of building our app. We have improved through trial and error, and got lots of useful feedback from experts in different industries. I was filled with excitement every time we achieved a certain goal. Technovation has provided a tremendous opportunity for girls like me to put ideas into reality. I was lucky to gain precious experience throughout the process."

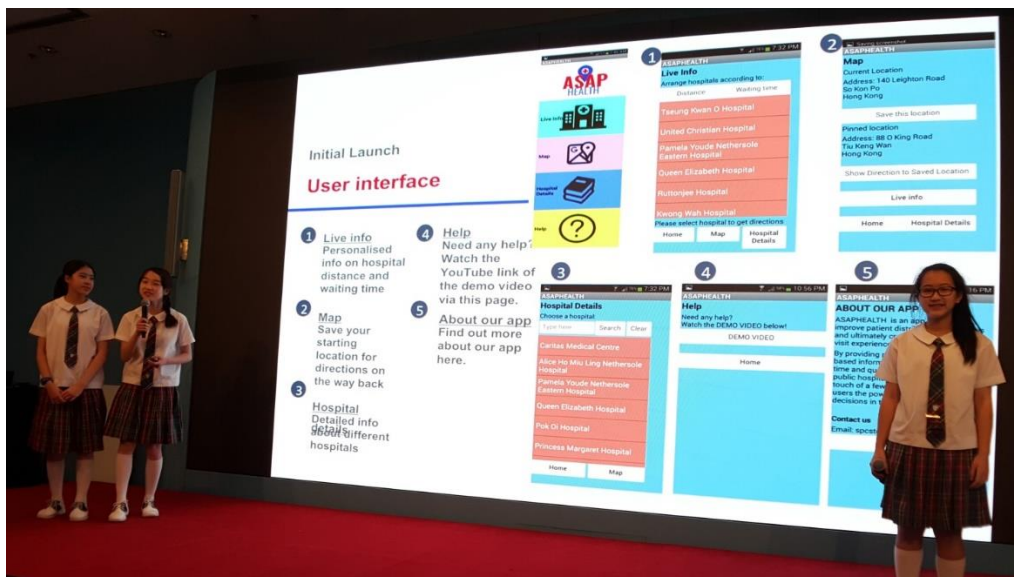
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“To see the girls and their projects grow and improve over a relatively short period is very rewarding,” said YMCM’s founder Tang, “Our goal is to inspire more girls in Hong Kong to embrace a young maker mindset and STEAM (STEM with an A for “Arts”). In learning by doing and mastering technology and entrepreneurship, Hong Kong girls - who comprise half of our population’s talent pool - can to be creators of the jobs of tomorrow. Moreover, it is hoped that their innovative ideas and solutions can also inspire greater adoption by social welfare agencies of technology to address Hong Kong’s social needs.”

About Young Makers ChangeMakers

Young Makers & ChangeMakers is an inclusive education platform and community to foster young maker mindsets, STEAM education and 21st century skills for the jobs of tomorrow. Since 2014, YMCM has organized Hong Kong’s summer [MakerCamp](#), as well as young maker workshops in conjunction with [Hong Kong Maker Faire](#), [Star Wars Hour of Code](#), and the [Global Cardboard Challenge](#), in addition to its own signature mini Young Makeathons. As a multi-sectorial platform, YMCM has worked with many of Hong Kong’s makerspaces (MakerBay, Dim Sum Labs, and MakerHive), universities (PolyU School of Design, CityU AppLab, and HKU), business innovation centres (Cyberport, CoCoon, and WeWork), as well as schools and charities like [Teach4HK](#) to create an inclusive young maker curriculum and teacher training. YMCM partners with Google to expand its CS First Code clubs across Hong Kong and has been invited to be judge competitions such as the Microsoft ImagineHack Hackathon and ESF CoCo Hackathon. In 2017, YMCM created its TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech programme that fostered girls from over 40 schools across Hong Kong to embrace technology entrepreneurship in support of the UN Sustainable Goals.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/YoungMakers.ChangeMakers

For more information about the pilot TechnovationHK: #GirlsMakeTech program, see some student-made videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG8ehJKS3gs&t=1s>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NLqXemH310&t=2s>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnwBcWoLtTQ>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zqbTVnoUgU&t=11s>

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About Cyberport

Cyberport is an innovative digital community with close to 900 digital tech companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, which is wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With the vision to become a main force in developing the digital tech industry as a key economic driver of Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing youth, start-ups and entrepreneurs to grow in the digital industry by connecting them to strategic partners and investors, driving collaboration with local and international business partners to create new opportunities, and accelerating digital adoption amongst SME and corporates. With a committed team of professionals providing all rounded value added services to support our digital community and an array of state-of-the-art tech facilities, Cyberport is the flagship for Hong Kong's digital tech industry.

For more information, please visit www.cyberport.hk

About The Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund

Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund is a not-for-profit initiative launched by Alibaba Group in 2015. The Fund's mission is to help Hong Kong-based entrepreneurs and young people realize their dreams and visions for their businesses and communities. Currently, the Fund runs two programs to fulfil this mission. The Investment Program provides Hong Kong-based entrepreneurs with investment capital and strategic guidance to help them grow their businesses and penetrate global markets by utilizing Alibaba's vast ecosystem. The Internship Program offers Hong Kong graduates and students from tertiary institutions a chance to learn with us by providing valuable internship opportunities at Alibaba Group and our affiliate companies.

For more information, please visit www.ent-fund.org

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